

FEB 13 2002

GROUP

4 ^{sub} a nut of which an inner peripheral surface is formed with
5 a helical screw groove corresponding to the helical screw
6 groove of said screw shaft;
7 a helical circulation path defined by the two helical
8 screw grooves;
9 a multiplicity of balls so disposed in said helical
10 circulation path as to be capable of rolling; and
11 a plurality of spacers
12 wherein each spacer is disposed between two adjacent
13 balls and has two concave surfaces facing respectively to said
14 two balls, and
15 a section of each of the concave surfaces of at least one
16 spacer is shaped such that a central portion is rectilinearly
17 connected to an outer edge of the spacer.

REMARKS

The preamble of Claim 1 has been revised to conform with
Claims 2 and 3.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to
Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16

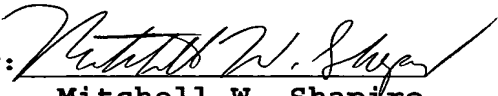
and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:jab

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive
Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102-3833
(703) 610-8652

By:


Mitchell W. Shapiro
Reg. No. 31,568

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIM:

1 1. (Amended) A linear motion [ball screw] device
2 comprising:
3 a screw shaft of which an outer peripheral surface is
4 formed with a helical screw groove;
5 a nut of which an inner peripheral surface is formed with
6 a helical screw groove corresponding to the helical screw
7 groove of said screw shaft;
8 a helical circulation path defined by the two helical
9 screw grooves;
10 a multiplicity of balls so disposed in said helical
11 circulation path as to be capable of rolling; and
12 a plurality of spacers,
13 wherein each spacer is disposed between two adjacent
14 balls and has two concave surfaces facing respectively to said
15 two balls, and
16 a section of each of the concave surfaces of at least one
17 spacer is shaped such that a central portion is rectilinearly
18 connected to an outer edge of the spacer.